

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8018

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BC (BOAKGOMO, FRANK)

SUBJECT: FY-76 IV NOMINEE BOAKGOMO

REF: A. GABORONE 0685, B. STATE 083875, C. GABORONE 0551

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED OF UNEXPECTED TRANSFER OF BOAKGOMO FROM MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LANDS TO POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO THE BOTSWANA MEAN COMMISSION (BMC). BECAUSE OF THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS REF C ARE NO LONGER VALID.

2. BOAKGOMO'S NEW POSITION PLACES HIM AS SENIOR BOTSWANA CITIZEN IN BMC, WHICH IS CRITICAL INSTITUTION IN BOTSWANA'S ECONOMY AND UP UNTIL LAST YEAR WAS LARGEST EXPORT EARNER. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TITUS MADISA AND GENERAL MANAGER OF BMC, BOTH OF WHOM DELIGHTED AT OPPORTUNITY FOR BOAKGOMO TO GAIN ORIENTATION OF THE U.S. IN RELATION TO HIS NEW DUTIES, THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS ARE OFFERED.

2. WASHINGTON CALLS: CALLS IN DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, INTERIOR AND OTHER AGENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH BEEF PRODUCTION AND IMPORTATION ARE CALLED FOR. BMC IS BEGINNING ENERGETIC NEW EFFORT TO SEEK BROADER MARKETS FOR ITS EXPORT FEEF, WHICH IS OF VERY HIGH QUALITY. BOAKGOMO WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN OF U.S. VETERINARY AND OTHER REQUIREMENTX AND OF POSSIBLE PURCHASERS WITHIN THE U.S. BOAKGOMO REMAINS A SIGNIFICATN OPINION LEADER WITHIN BOTSWANA ELITE, AND CALLS AT STATE AND AID REMAIN APPROPRIATE.

4. OUTSIDE WASHINGTON: SINCE BOAKGOMO'S MAIN INTEREST IS NOW

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BEEF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING, A PRIMARY INTEREST WILL BE

ADMINISTRATION OF ABATTOIRS IN THE UNITED STATES. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO OBSERVE ONE OR MORE ABATTOIRS WHICH PROCESS ON THE ORDER OF 2,000 HEAD A DAY, WHICH IS THE RATE AT THE BMC. ANOTHER IMPORTANT INTEREST WILL BE THE MARKETING OF BEEF, AND IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO SEE U.S. BEEF PROCESSORS SUCH AS CAMPBELL SOUPS AND SWANSON FROZEN FOODS TO GIVE HIM INSIGHTS INTO BEEF CUT AND GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIAL MARKET.

5. IN RELATION TO HIS ABATTOIR DUTIES, BOAKGOMO HAS ALSO ASKED TO SEE A VARIETY OF RANCHING SCHEMES FOR CATTLE AND SMALL STOCK.

6. BOAKGOMO IS A LONG-STANDING FAN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, AND A VISIT TO BOSTON WOULD BE A HIGHLIGHT OF HIS TRIP. HE HAS ALSO ASKED TO SEE OIC INTERNATIONAL HEAD REV, LEON SULLIVAN IN PHILADELPHIA. THIS IS MOST APPROPRIATE BECAUSE BOAKGOMO IS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL OICI BOARD. FINALLY, BOAKGOMO SHOULD SEE THE WEST COAST AND HAS ASKED IF HE COULD HAVE A STOP IN SAN FRANCISCO TO CALL ON FORMER PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR CHARLES FRANKEL, WHO WAS CLOSE ASSOCIATE DURING HIS TENURE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LANDS.

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